

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125762

47

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, XA

SUBJ: US/ SOVIET BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA:

A PROPOSAL

1. DURING PAST FEW YEARS DEPARTMENT' S AFRICAN BUREAU HAS HELD A SERIES OF PERIODIC INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA WITH VARIOUS NON- AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN, BRAZIL, YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. RECENTLY, A SOVIET EMBOFF IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY ACTIVE IN APPROACHING AF PERSONNEL TO DISCUSS AFRICAN ISSUES.
2. AF WOULD NOW LIKE TO DETERMINE INFORMALLY WHETHER SOVIET MFA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COMPREHENSIVE LOW- KEY BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF OUR RESPECTIVE ASSESSMENTS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA.
3. AT ITS DISCRETION, EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO SEEK OUT THEIR VIEWS ON SUCH TALKS.
(NEITHER SIDE OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE INTEREST IN PUBLICIZING US/ SOV EXCHANGES IN THIS FIELD, WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS EXTENSION OF INFORMAL TALKS OFFICERS IN RESPECTIVE

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CAPITALS HAVE ALREADY HELD ON AFRICA WITH SOVIET COUNTER-PARTS.)

4. FYI. AF WOULD CONSIDER SENDING ONE TO TWO SENIOR OFFICERS BELOW ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL SOMETIME THIS FALL SHOULD EMBASSY DEEM IT DESIRABLE AND SHOULD SOVIETS REACT POSITIVELY. ROGERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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